MONTANA
STATE
LIBRARY

This "cover" page added by the Internet Archive for formatting purposes

ARIZONA
STATE
LIBRARY

S
027.0786
H6MA
SPRING 2004

3 0864 1002 2577 3

Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board

The Montana Archivist

Spring 2004 Volume 5, Number 2

ARCHIVIST RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND NORTHWEST ARCHIVIST CONFERENCE IN MAY

Thanks to funds from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Montana SHRAB awarded two scholarships to archivists practicing in Montana to attend the Northwest Archivists conference in Olympia, Washington, in May. These scholarships will pay for travel costs and conference registration fees.

Harriet Schultz of the Butte Silver Bow Public Archives received the first of the scholarships. Schultz works part time at the Archives, where she assists with reference services and processing. Sister Dolores Brinkel of the Helena Diocesan Archives in Helena, received the second scholarship. Brinkel also works as a part-time archivist at the Diocese, where she oversees all functions of the archives, including appraisal, reference, exhibits, and administration.

Two additional scholarships will be awarded in the fall to attend the Montana History Conference and associated workshops. Please watch this newsletter for further information.

CONTENTS

Statement on Ebay	2
Homestead survey	4
Montana History conference and workshops	2
New Archivist of the US	3
Publications available	4
Save America's Treasures grants	3
SHRAB meeting	3

UPDATED PREFERRED PRACTICES MANUAL AVAILABLE

Through grant funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the SHRAB is pleased to announce the availability of an updated edition of "Preferred Practices for Historical Repositories: A Self-Assessment Manual and Checklists." First produced in 1999 through SHRAB and the Museums Association of Montana, this manual provides basic information on most aspects of initiating and operating an archives, museum or historical repository. These manuals are free of charge and available to those who work with historical collections. To receive a copy, contact Molly Kruckenberg at mkruckenberg@state.mt.us or (406) 444-7482 with your name and mailing address.

SRMA CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN LARAMIE, WYOMING

The Society Of Rocky Mountain Archivists will be holding their annual conference at the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in Laramie on June 3 and 4. The conference will features two workshops, one on office dynamics and cohesion and one on rare books handling and maintenance on Thursday. Conference sessions on Friday include topics such as management and money, student workers and volunteers, niche collections and a tour of the American Heritage Center. Registration for the workshop in $25 and for the conference is $40. For more information, visit the SRMA website at http://ahc.uwyo.edu/srma.

WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER

A repeat of the "Preferred Practices for Historical Repositories," workshop that was held at the Museums Association of Montana conference in Miles City in March will be offered in a full-day format at the annual Montana History Conference in October in Whitefish. Based on the manual of the same name (see story on page 1), the workshop will be offered Thursday, October 28. Sponsored by the Montana SHRAB, with funding from grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Committee, this workshop will address basic preservation practices for small archives, museums, historical societies and libraries. Jodi Allison-Bunnell and Jennifer Jeffries-Thompson will be conducting the workshop. Two scholarships will be awarded by the SHRAB to attend the workshop and the conference.

For conference and registration information, please watch the Montana Historical Society's website at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org

Conference information should be available in September. For scholarship information, contact Molly Kruckenberg at mkruckenberg@state.mt.us.

Hittin' the High Spots in Montana, Irvin "Shorty" Shope, Promotional pamphlet Mt Highway Dept., 1938. Montana Historical Society

COSHRC ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING SALE OF HISTORIC RECORDS ON E-BAY

In response to a growing number of historic government documents appearing for sale on eBay, the Council of State Historic Records Coordinators, in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists and the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators, has issued the following statement:

Historical records of government agencies document actions taken by governments from the local level to the national in conducting the public's business. They represent the essential information by which all citizens may understand the consequences of decisions made by public agencies. They allow the governed to hold those who govern accountable. To that end, these documents should remain where they are available for public inspection.

As documents of all types have become increasingly collectible, the number of official government records appearing for sale through online venues such as eBay has grown. Their disappearance into private hands deprives the public of access to important historical details concerning the development of property rights, taxation, judicial actions, and community growth, as well as the enduring impact of human beings upon their surrounding environments.

To protect the integrity of the public record and to ensure continuing public access to necessary historical documents, we respectfully request eBay's assistance in alerting its users to the ramifications of the sale of historical public records. We propose that notices be posted on its site at appropriate locations identifying the legal issues involving public records and directing potential buyers and sellers to a Web site created and maintained by the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators (COSHRC). This Web site will provide links to definitions of public records, to laws that govern their disposition and to state and federal agencies that have responsibility for them. It will help eBay customers to distinguish the kinds of records that should not be handled by private parties and will provide them with access to expert advice to answer questions about public documents.

PRESIDENT BUSH NOMINATES NEW ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

On April 8 President George W. Bush announced his intention to nominate Allen Weinstein, of Maryland, to be Archivist of the United States. Dr. Weinstein currently works at the International Foundation for Elections Systems as Senior Advisor for Democratic Institutions and Director of its Center for Democratic Initiatives. He previously served as President of The Center for Democracy in Washington, D.C. Earlier in his career, Dr. Weinstein was a Professor at Boston University, Georgetown University and Smith College. He earned his bachelor's degree from Columbia College and his master's and Ph.D. from Yale University.

The Society of American Archivists and 18 other historical, archival, and library organizations have released a statement on their concern regarding the suddenness of this appointment and protesting the lack of consultation with historical and archival organizations. The statement can be found in its entirety at http://www.coshrc.org/issues/nomination.htm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6-8	Northwest Archivist Annual Conference, Olympia, WA
May 26	SHRAB meeting, Butte
June 3-4	Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists Conference, Laramie, WY
Jun 17-18	Lewis & Clark Performing Arts Showcase, Livingston
Jun 20-Jul 2	Western Archives Institute, Davis, CA
Oct 28-30	Montana History Conference, Whitefish

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH NPS

The Federal Save America's Treasures Grants are administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Library and Museum Services and the President's Committee on the Humanities.

Grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and nationally significant historic structures and sites. Intellectual and cultural artifacts include artifacts, collections, documents, sculpture, and works of art. Historic structures and sites include historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. Grants are awarded through a competitive process.

Grants require a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match, which can be cash, donated services, or use of equipment. The grant and the non-Federal match must be used during the grant period (generally 2 to 3 years) to execute the project. The minimum grant request for collections projects is $50,000 Federal share; the minimum grant request for historic property projects is $250,000 Federal share. The maximum grant request for all projects is $1 million Federal share. The Save America's Treasures Grants Selection Panel may, at its discretion, award less than the minimum grant request. In 2003, the average Federal grant award to collections was $172,000, and the average award to historic properties was $268,000.

Applicants should review the Guidelines and Application Instructions in detail before completing the application. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm Eastern Daylight Savings time, Wednesday, May 19, 2004. This is not a postmark deadline. For more information, visit the National Park Service website at http://www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/application.htm.

SHRAB MEETING HELD AT BUTTE IN MAY

The first of the SHRAB's biannual meetings for 2004 will occur on May 26 at the Butte Silver Bow Public Archives at 9:30am. Anyone interested in the SHRAB or its activities is invited to attend. The SHRAB meeting that was to be held in Miles City in March was cancelled.

Montana Archivist

Montana State Historical
Records Advisory Board

Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201

Published Quarterly
Molly Kruckenberg, Editor

Board Members:
Jodi Allison-Bunnell, Missoula
Ellen Craine, Butte
Judy Ellinghausen, Great Falls
Peggy Gow, Deer Lodge
Molly Kruckenberg, Helena
Lory Morrow, Helena
Sami Pierson, Libby
Donna McCrea, Missoula

STATE DOCUME[illegible] COLLECTI[illegible]

[illegible]04

MONTANA STATE [illegible]
1515 E. 6th AV[illegible]
HELENA, MONTANA [illegible]

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Montana Historical Society, in cooperation with The Homestead National Monument of America, is proud to announce a new oral history project. The Project will focus on the living descendants of homesteaders in Montana. In an effort to gather the names of potential interviewees the Society is asking folks with family stories relating to homesteading experiences in Montana (roughly between 1910 and 1930) to complete the survey provided below. The surveys will be used as background research for the project, but will also serve as a pool from which oral history interviews will be conducted. In April staff members from the Homestead National Monument and the Montana Historical Society will choose up to 20 people to interview more extensively regarding homesteading family stories and experiences. Homesteading era photographs, letters, or diaries are also of interest. Anyone wanting more information about the survey or the project should contact society oral historian Jodie Foley via email at jofoley@state.mt.us.

COSHRC, cont.

The on-going loss of portions of our documentary heritage risks nothing less than erasing part of our national memory. As representatives of those professions charged with protecting that documentary heritage, we look forward to working with eBay through this or other appropriate action to help preserve and provide broad public access to America's historical public records.

PUBLICATIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Two educational publications recently printed by the SHRAB, *Records at Risk* and *So You Have a Box of Papers...* are still available, free of charge. If you are interested in obtaining copies of these publications, please contact Molly Kruckenberg at the Montana Historical Society with your name, mailing address, and the name and number of the publication(s) in which you are interested. She can be reached at (406) 444-7482 or mkruckenberg@state.mt.us.